

**Regulatory Fairness Board Meeting October 12, 2016, at the Augusta Civic Center,
Augusta Maine 3:30 – 5:15**

Members of the Board: Stephen Rich, Chair, Matthew Dunlap

Small Business Advocate: Peggy Schaffer

Members of the public:

June Holman, Childcare provider and Maine Childcare Association

Shantelle Pentgil, Childcare Provider

Eloise Vitelli, New Ventures

Betty Adam, Central Maine Newspapers

The Chair convened the meeting with an overview of the history of the Regulatory Fairness Board and its purpose.

Ms. Holman and Ms. Pentgil brought forward their concerns with the childcare licensing and inspection process in Maine. Ms. Holman runs a small childcare business taking care of 20 children. She previously took care of 80 children. Because of the regulatory structure in place to run a large center, she has decreased the size of her business.

Ms. Pentgil runs a childcare center in Androscoggin County with 93 children.

Both talked about the inflexible structure of the inspection process, and the requirements placed on their businesses that were not placed on similar businesses not in the childcare field. They noted that the number of licensed childcare facilities in Maine has decreased from around 2000 to a little less than 1800 in the past year. The inability to get childcare is one of the major impediments for parents who are working.

They also noted that it was increasingly difficult to get parents child care subsidies to place children into childcare. This often creates a barrier to low income parents who are trying to work, but are unable to afford childcare for their children.

The Board offered suggestions on statutory and other changes that might be helpful to create more predictability in the inspection process and to clarify the licensure rules.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15